WRESTLING FLYER NEWSLETTER

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INTERVIEW
MISSY HYATT

The following interview with Melissa Anne Hiatt was conducted via telephone on April 11 from her new apartment in New York City of which she just recently moved into after residing in Atlanta, GA during her five years of employment with World Championship Wrestling. She was fired from her $75,000-a-year job in February by Eric Bischoff and just recently filed a claim with the EEOC in Atlanta against WCW.

John Clark: First of all, how are you doing and what are the things you're now getting involved in since you moved to New York?

Missy Hiatt: I am going to acting classes and I am going on auditions. I've auditioned for *Days of our Lives*, I did one for *Another World*, and I got a call-back for a Budweiser commercial. So who knows?

Clark: Do you see any future for yourself in the wrestling business at this point, or else what do you see yourself doing as a career?

Hiatt: I really want to act, that's my main thing. If there is something that comes up in wrestling, like I'll be working with WWN, Paul E. and Jim Crockett's organization, if there's any independent stuff, if people want to call and they can meet my price, then I'll go work for them. But to be honest with you, wrestling's just extra stuff. I mean it's not what I want to do.

Clark: How would you describe your five years working for World Championship Wrestling and what that experience meant to you?

Hiatt: The money was the only thing, even though I was paid so much less than all the other men. The money was very nice. But after working there, it wasn't very fun and it wasn't very fulfilling. It's like, I would rather make less money and do something that I enjoy than work somewhere for more money. It just took me a while to realize that.

Clark: What was your actual job description over those five years?

Hiatt: I was a manager, then I was an announcer. I don't know, I never really had a job description. It was just whenever there was something stupid to do, "then let's Missy do it."

Clark: Were there times where they wouldn't use you for long periods of time, even though they had you under contract?

Hiatt: Yeah, a couple of different times before I worked with the Nasty Boys there was about three months that I really didn't do much. A few years before that, before I became an announcer, because they really didn't know what to do with me, I didn't work very much for a couple of months. They put me into voice school to try to get rid of my southern accent. That was Mr. Herd's idea.

Clark: Did your opinions and feelings towards the company change much over those five years?

Hiatt: Yes, definitely, because we went through so many different bosses. Each boss that came in, he had his different clique and different people that he wanted to hire. I went through so many changes and so many different people there that each time a new person came along we always knew that something was going to happen.

Clark: What was the situation around them firing you right before your contract expired and how did that effect the plans you had for your career in the wrestling business?

Hiatt: I was fired because I went over my supervisor's head and he found out about it. I went over his head about the picture (a blown-up photo taken by a WCW employee at Starrcade '93 where her breast fell out of her outfit as she came into the ring) that was hanging on the CNN wall. He found out about it, and he was drunk, and he fired me after he said a lot of sexual stuff to me. It effected me a lot. It changed my whole life drastically because I was told in December I was getting renewed. I had plans. I had just bought a new car and I had plans to stay in Atlanta, Georgia. So I guess it was a blessing in disguise.

Clark: Has WCW fairly settled monetary matters with you?

Hiatt: No, not at all. They still owe me for my 900-line and for my calendar. They've never paid me one penny for my comic book and my trading cards in the five years I was there. They thought because I was a woman that I would just forget about it and never question anything. I'm sure Sting every three months got his money and I'm sure all the other wrestlers got their money on time. But I never did get a check like I was supposed to. I was on their Sega games and Nintendo games, the video games. I recorded my voice for that and I've never gotten one penny for any of that. They still have yet to pay me. They promised to pay me in February. And this is what, April?

Clark: Could you state the exact charges you filed against WCW on

March 29 with the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission?

Hiatt: I filed for sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, and equal pay. They discriminated against me but they paid me less and they didn't treat me like a man. They didn't give me the same opportunities they gave the other male announcers or even the male managers.

Clark: What made you decide to file this and bring this up now?

Hiatt: It came because of the picture, the picture hanging on the wall on the CNN studios. That was the last straw. I went home and I cried and I stayed in bed for like three days, and it just depressed me. It wasn't until after my friends, after seeing the years of destruction that I was doing to my body, being bulimic, them calling the attention to me and my family talking to me about it, saying, "This is not right, you're unhappy." People do a lot of things sometimes and they're just going through the motions in life, and they don't realize just how severely depressed they are.

Clark: You starting talking about how this has effected you. Just how much of an effect has all of this had on you emotionally?

Hiatt: A big effect, and my psychiatrist knows. I was on a lot of medication for the last year and a half working at WCW to help with the depression. After I got fired and I slept and wouldn't get out of my house for like two weeks, after I got back from Orlando, finally my doctor got me off some of the medication, and I have felt a lot better than I have in a long time, in maybe four years. I feel a whole lot better emotionally and physically because I know I'm not trying to meet their standards.

Clark: Could you give me some idea of the atmosphere you personally had to work in at WCW?

Hiatt: The atmosphere was being treated like an idiot. If I would ever go to any kind of supervisor or anybody on the booking committee with an idea that I would have, they would look at me and go, "Ah, that's so cute. Did you think of that yourself?" And they treated me like I was so stupid. They treated me like I had not one brain in my head. I have nine years experience in wrestling and I'm not a dumb blond. They treated me as my character on TV.

Clark: Did you let them get away with it for a long time or was it something you just figured you couldn't do anything about?

Hiatt: What can I do? I speak up my mind but you can only speak up so much in wrestling before they think you're a troublemaker. And I was always told by my ex, Eddie Gilbert, you always smile, you always say thank you, and you never let them see it bothers you because if they see that it bothers you then they're going to do it even more. When they had Madusa and I do the bikini contest they loved having the two ex-Gilberts work a program together. They all sat around and they wanted something to happen. They thought it was so cool, "Ooh, what an inside thing! The new ex-Mrs. Gilbert and the ex-Mrs. Gilbert." The little things that they did, I would always just try to smile and not let it worry me. It built up over the years to a time that I just totally broke down.

Clark: Were those bad working conditions at WCW for you similar for the other women that were employed there?

Hiatt: All of them. Even the ones that are married now to the wrestlers that are in the business, they were still treated like crap. All the women have been treated like third-rate kind of citizens there because it's all run by men.

Clark: Do you think this treatment of women is a major problem in our country or basically moreso just a problem within WCW?

Hiatt: No, I just think it's that southern male mentality and it's just the professional wrestling business. Because there's a lot of women vice presidents, there's a lot of stock brokers, there's a lot of women lawyers, and there's a lot of women running companies nowadays. I just can't believe that Jane Fonda, who did so great for herself with her fitness videos and being a woman of herself and never having a man do anything for her, would marry some guy like Ted Turner. Because I used to respect her, and I thought, what a woman she is, what a woman of the 90s she is. She's completely what I didn't think she was all about.

Clark: As far as the claim you filed with the EEOC and the possible lawsuit that would come out of it, are you mainly looking for money out of it or are you desiring for WCW to make changes because of this?

Hiatt: Both. I'm doing this for all the women that they treated like crap and I'm looking for my money. I want my back pay and I want my equal pay because reinstatement is not, not acceptable. I want back pay, I want my front pay, and I want interest on the back pay that they owe me. I think they're starting to get charged about twelve percent right now because they haven't been paying me my money that they owe me.

Clark: What do you think of the possibility that people out there might not take your claim seriously or discard what you're saying because of the reputation you have because of the nature of the character that you have portrayed in wrestling?

Hiatt: They might not because all I know is I couldn't even go to a sporting event, like I love professional hockey, and I would go to a hockey game in Atlanta and I'd have people yell at me, "Yo, Missy, ooh, take it off!" The way the fans perceive me, because they see me on TV, they have treated me like I'm dumb and I'm a bimbo. And the people at work, even the production crew members and other wrestlers, it's the same perception. Maybe I do my character so well that they perceive me as being that. But I don't think they think of Sting as going around his house doing the whoo and the Stinger splash everywhere.

Clark: Has there been anyone at WCW who you felt treated you with some amount of respect?

Hiatt: Kip Frey. Dusty Rhodes treated me very nice. If they would have let Dusty do what Dusty wanted to do... He always tried to put me on TV and stuff, but Dusty was always fighting, "Let's put Missy on the pay-per-view." He's always had other people fighting him against that.

Clark: Could you specifically describe some of the situations in which you say you were a victim of sexual harassment?

Hiatt: Definitely. I was grabbed many times in the hallways to the dressing rooms. I was talked demeaning to by a lot of supervisors. I was told a couple of times, one time in particular that I can remember, "God damn it, can't you get the interview right? You sound like Ellie Mae. Fuckin clamp it." And I was called dumb a lot in front of all the production people. I was grabbed and touched by a supervisor and he would try to push his way into my dressing room, and in front of the wrestlers go, "Excuse me, guys, I've got to go in there and talk to Missy." And he'd walk in my room and shut the door and then keep trying to ask me out, and say, "Why don't you try an older man?"

Clark: Are you able to name these supervisors involved with this?

Hiatt: No, not now. With the filing of the EEOC, that is all confidential until the EEOC sends my attorney the right to sue letter, then that will all be public knowledge.

Clark: How would you deal with these types of situations?

Hiatt: I would just kind of try to laugh it off and push him out the door. Everytime I would walk by and wrestlers would say nasty stuff to me like "Ooh, baby, ooh, baby, come here" and all other rude, obnoxious things, I would just not even think about it. I would put it out of my

mind and just walk through there with my head down and go where I'm going. But it was so degrading. It just took a toll on me. When I married (to Eddie Gilbert), I didn't have that problem because people respected Eddie and they wouldn't do it. Then when I was dating Mike, Road Warrior Hawk, last year, it's the only time I ever got respect from any of the wrestlers because they knew he'd kill them. He told the Nasty Boys and he told some other ones, "You better be nice to her and you better respect her or you're going to have to deal with me." Because Mike has a reputation in this business of being a very strong guy, probably the strongest.

Clark: Were there ever times where you were physically harmed?

Hiatt: Oh, definitely. Even one time on the Clash of the Champions from Wichita, they didn't tell me beforehand they were going to throw me in the water trough, and they did. They had Abdullah the Butcher pick me up and throw me in there. On TV having to do the in-locker room interviews, having Stan Hansen spank me. Just the stuff on TV is degrading enough but then they did it too off-camera.

Clark: How did this effect you psychologically and were there times you would just break down and cry or anything like that?

Hiatt: Oh, all the time. I'd come home sometimes and be driving back from a town and just cry, a lot of times. I'm sure my doctor knows more about it than I do because I've talked to him more.

Clark: Was there anyone in the company who you could go to and talk about these things with?

Hiatt: Janie's (Engle) the one. I showed her the picture after I took it off the wall. I just kind of went and cried. We had to do new promo pictures that day. It was like a few days later and I had it in my purse, and I showed it to Janie, she's Dusty's assistant up there. I showed it to her, and I said, "Janie, can you believe this? It's so disgusting." She said, "Well, go to Eric. Show this to Eric and make him take care of it." I'm saying, "Oh, they're not going to do anything and they'll just laugh at me." Which they did. But I went to Eric anyway, and I guess I should have kept my mouth shut some more. Nothing would've happened if I wouldn't have ever went to Eric and stood up for myself. But at the end I started standing up for myself. My doctor told me, "You know, the only way you're going to get better is if you start standing up for yourself and not let these people treat you that way." And then when you start standing up for yourself and start acting like you do have a brain and start asking questions, then you get the reputation of being difficult and they fire you.

Clark: During those times when you were being treated that way, how did you deal with those feelings of hurt you had and trying to respect yourself when others weren't?

Hiatt: I would feel bad a lot about myself. If it wasn't for my two best girlfriends that would tell me, "Missy, don't worry about it, don't think that way," I don't know how I could have dealt with it.

Clark: How do you personally feel about Eric Bischoff and the manner in which he treated you as an employee of his?

Hiatt: I personally think Eric Bischoff is very unqualified. He lied on his resume to get his job. He doesn't tell the truth about anything. When I've gone to talk to him he's outright lied to me. As a person, I don't think he's much of a person either. I introduced my ex-boyfriend, Jason Hervey, to him to try to help him get his show *The Kids Team Challenge* off. When Jason and I broke up this past summer, Jason sent my personal belongings to Eric's house. Eric wouldn't even let me look at my stuff that was in his garage until I signed the three cars and the motorcycle over to Jason. I think that's called extortion. That was my supervisor at the time withholding my personal belongings. Now, I should have gone over there with the police and I should have contacted an attorney, but I didn't because I just wanted it over with. I had gone through a long enough fight with Jason to get my dog back, let alone some of my personal belongings and jewelry and things that my mother had given me. It was worth just to go ahead and sign it to get it over with. But I don't think when you're a supervisor at Turner that that's one of your duties. I just coldn't go over there with two big guys to beat him up to get my stuff. You just can't do that because that's your boss. So I had to sign it. I couldn't even go over there with an attorney or the police, in reality, or I would have probably been fired then. Maybe not that day, a week later, for something trivial.

Clark: What opinions do you have of Bill Watts, Jim Ross, and Ole Anderson in regards to their treatment of you and women in general?

Hiatt: They think wrestling's back in the 60s and they think women are categorized as midgets and stuff. They call the women up there "skirts." They think that we're just extra and don't really draw anything. They don't think women have any brains.

Clark: Do you think that these types of attitudes toward women could ever change there at WCW?

Hiatt: Maybe now because of all of this. Hopefully there will be a woman in some kind of capability up there other than a secretary. But I doubt that will ever happen. It's amazing, Linda McMahon can run the World Wrestling Federation, which is by far years ahead of WCW, and she is an attorney, she's the president of Titan. She can do that, but they (WCW) won't even allow or have a woman make decisions down there.

Clark: From your personal experience at WCW, what is your depiction of the steroid use currently in that company?

Hiatt: I'm sure there is. Different bosses have had different policies. Some have said, "If you get off of them, we'll give you extra money." Some of them don't even care. If the FBI would go back and ask for the records for the last five years of their testing, they couldn't show nothing because it doesn't matter, I mean if you're a big star and you tested positive, they don't care. Everybody's jumping on poor Vince McMahon, he's admitted to using them back when they were still legal. The only reason why the FBI was after him is because they wanted to try to seize Titan Towers and get the nine million dollars that Titan Towers is worth. If I was the FBI, I think I would go for the CNN Center. I think it's worth a little bit more than nine million. They didn't even have a real testing program going on. It was just whenever, maybe once a year, if that, and then you could walk out and still have a job. And there's been wrestlers down there that's been documented, I'm not going to say any names, but got arrested for steroids in their hotel room and WCW paid and bailed them out. And they're still working there.

Clark: Do you think your time at WCW has helped you or hurt you as far as enhancing your career in wrestling?

Hiatt: In wrestling it might have helped me for the exposure on TV. But to be honest with you, I've been offered money from different wrestling places, and the only reason why I worked for Paul (Heyman of WWN) is I did it as a favor, but it's going to take a lot of money and a daily guarantee to make me even want to go and be in that atmosphere. I loved going to the ring and I loved being a manager and I loved hosting the show, but all the politics and all the crap that you have to endure until you get there, it's just not worth it. There's no amount of money in the world that's worth me to go through crap like that and be treated like that.

Clark: Do you think your experience at WCW and what you've done there has helped you advance towards other forms of entertainment that you're interested in doing?

Hiatt: No, not at all, because I really wanted to be a real sports announcer and I begged them and tried, and they sent me to voice

school to make me a real announcer and a real interviewer, but that ended up with me doing those stupid, goofy in-locker room interviews. I tried to go over to TNT Sports when they wanted to hire a girl to interview football players for the Sunday Night TNT, and they wouldn't even interview me. They laughed at me because I was in wrestling and no one would take me seriously--"How hard can it be to interview a wrestler that's spitting and doing stupid stuff, to interview a man that at least has a couple of brain cells?" It doesn't take much for me to read up and find out a little bit about the person that I'm going to interview and the few questions that I have to ask them.

Clark: You had a very, very brief stint with the WWF in 1987. Do you think you would be at a different position in your career if you would have stayed with Titan Sports?

Hiatt: Oh, definitely. If I would have stayed in the WWF, right now it would be Missy Hyatt movies instead of Hulk Hogan movies and I'd have my own series. It would be *Thunder in Paradise* starring Missy Hyatt, or Missy Hyatt *and* Hulk Hogan, he'd be second billing though.

Clark: That's strange though because you would think you would have had a better chance of doing those things through working for Turner.

Hiatt: The wrestling department is treated like a red headed step child. They don't even give coverage to it, but just recently Larry King finally had Ric Flair on there. They're not even treated as part of the company. They're the best kept secret. When Turner goes to the big conventions to sell the shows, it's like, "Oh, yeah, *and* wrestling."

Clark: Do you have any major regrets or things you would have done differently in your wrestling career?

Hiatt: If I would have known what I know now, I think I would have started standing up for myself a lot longer ago, but I wouldn't be working in wrestling right now if I would have done that. Working with the Nasty Boys, I really didn't want to do that. But I had no choice. I wanted to work with the Hollywood Blonds. I think that would have made a much better team instead of me being with the Nasty Boys. That's completely out of Missy's character, but they made it and had me go out there and scream and act stupid.

Clark: What were some of the more enjoyable and also unenjoyable moments in your career in pro wrestling?

Hiatt: Enjoyment time was UWF. Enjoyment was World Class when I started because I was so naive and new to the business and I thought it was so different and exciting. Working Memphis was fun, doing live TV every Saturday was fun. That's about it. I really can't think of much. Doing my calendar, taking the pictures for my calendar and putting the calendar together, that was fun. They won't even give me any (calendars). They gave me thirty and I've tried to get some more. That was enough for family and stuff, but I only have one left and they won't give me any. Besides the profits they won't even give me a few for me to have. Another enjoyable time was when I was doing the Missy Hyatt segment on the Saturday morning show, that was fun. Not enjoyable times, just about any other time that I had there.

Clark: How would you compare your character to other women in the wrestling business as far as performance and drawing ability, i.e. Madusa Miceli, Sherri Martel, Elizabeth, Woman, or any others?

Hiatt: Madusa can't do an interview, she's a great wrestler. I wanted to be her manager. I went to them with the idea of letting me be her manager, but then they would have to fly in girls to wrestle her and I guess they were too cheap to do that. I thought it would be so cool to have me be her manager because she can't talk, and get her over because she's an absolute fantastic wrestler. I'm totally different. Sherri Martel, she's another wrestler. She can take bumps in the ring. She's totally different than me. Elizabeth has never talked. She just walked out there and looked gorgeous. She was just beautiful, she was there to add beauty. I know I've lasted longer than any other woman in this business, not wrestling. Sting, Ron Simmons, and Missy Hyatt were the only people that were there (WCW) from the beginning. They never really used me to the extent that they could have used me to.

Clark: Well, how different is the Missy Hiatt that I'm speaking to right now compared to the Missy Hyatt that people have seen in front of WCW cameras?

Hiatt: That I have a high I.Q. and that I'm a person and that I'm not stupid and that I have feelings. Because the Missy that you see on TV is like "the light's on but no one's home." I'm very far from that. A lot of people wouldn't know that I read a lot, I mean extremely a lot. One thing was very funny right before I got fired. I was in the dressing room reading Walt Whitman and one of the supervisors came in and was like, (sarcastically) "Oh, you're reading that?" I'm like, "Yeah, is there a problem?" He said, "Well, isn't that kind of...?" I'm like, "What are you trying to stay, I watch public access channel?" But I read a lot and I read a lot of different things because I like to learn. I was going to be an attorney. I went to college to be an attorney but I didn't finish college. When I was living with Jason, he wanted me to quit wrestling and go back to school to be an attorney. I have a paralegal degree, which I got when I lived in L.A. I'll read anything that's interesting that I can pick up and find at the bookstore.

Clark: Would you say that while working for WCW you grew at all as a person or learned things?

Hiatt: I didn't learn anything from them. Anything that I learned was because of me going out of my own way and doing it. The only thing I learned at TBS is that if you lie on your resume you can get a job as an executive producer.

Clark: What are some of the common misconceptions that people might have about you that you would like to say?

Hiatt: That I'm a bimbo and they think that I'll go out with any guy there is. That's totally wrong. They made me out to be "Miss Slut U.S.A.," and that's not how I am at all. And the fans and the way people have treated me when I was away from the wrestling ring: I mean we'd be sitting there at a hockey game and people that I don't even know would come up and sit down and start trying to ask me out, "Oh, you're Missy Hyatt...," and then they'd get angry when I wouldn't want to talk to them. I'll be out at a club with my girlfriends and people would walk right up to me and start talking to me and get right in my face. They think that I'm that character, and I'm not.

Clark: How would you describe yourself when it comes to dating?

Hiatt: I would never want to date a guy that ever watched me on wrestling. That's the first thing. If they know who I am, I will not go out with them. That's the only reason I went out with Rod Brind'Amour of the Flyers. He didn't watch wrestling, but two of his friends that introduced us did. But he had never seen me on TV. That's the only reason why I said, "Yeah, I'll go out with you." The only reason I went out with Mike (Hiatt) is because I knew him for like ten years and he knew that that's not the way I was, he knew that was my character. When he came back to work for WCW I would have never thought in a million years that I'd start going out with him, but he was the only person in nine years to ever say that he really respected me and respected what I had done. I was giving him a ride because the Nasty Boys got drunk at dinner and I wanted to get out of there, and they kicked my new car--I had just bought a Ferrari--and so Mike kind of saved me from them because we had known each other for a long time. Then we got in the car and I was giving him a ride back to the hotel, and he was like, "You know, Missy, I just really wanted to tell you that I respect you and respect what you've done in this business because it's been hard for a woman, and what you do on TV and what you do is

really cool." From then on I looked at him in such a totally different light, because no one has ever said that to me. That's why I fell in love with him.

Clark: How would you describe yourself as a person? I mean, do you have a lot of insecurities in your life?

Hiatt: Oh, everyday. Everyday I don't know if I'm going to be able to make it in acting. I mean, I'm changing careers at thirty years old. It's going to be really hard. It's going to be real hard. But I'm going to acting class and I'm going to learn. I think I take direction pretty good.

Clark: Are you at this point attempting to leave the Missy Hyatt character behind and put it to its death?

Hiatt: Definitely, I want to be taken as a serious actress. That's why I'm going to the Strausborg Actor's Studio.

Clark: Are you content with being single at this point in your life or is there marriage and possibly children in your future?

Hiatt: I'd love that if I could find the right person. If I could find the right person, that would be great, especially when my mother keeps telling me, "Am I ever going to hold a grandbaby?" I don't know. It's like I have my little dog, Sasha girl, I said, "Mom, that's about as close as you're going to get right now."

Clark: What have you achieved doing the the bimbo-type gimmick?

Hiatt: Money. It supported me. It supported my family, and that's the one thing that I can't do anymore. My nephew, who's like my little brother, I could buy him a jeep for his birthday and pay his insurance and I could give him money for voice lessons and put him through college. Now, it's like, "Lee, I can't help you as much as I used to." I was the sponsor of a hockey team for kids that couldn't afford it. Now I can't do that. When the coach of the hockey team found out I got fired, he was like, "Oh, I'll have to go tell the boys you can't sponsor them anymore." But it was at the end of the season anyway. I said, "Well, maybe by next year I'll have the money," because sponsoring a hockey team with the equipment and the jerseys, everything's really expensive. I didn't grow up with everything, so at least if I could give back to some of the kids, that was great. And to give to my nephew and my family. I bought land in the mountains and I have been wanting my parents to sell their house and move to the mountains and retire. My father retired from his job but he's still working, and I don't like that. This country and the way the system works here with social security and Medicaid is very wrong.

Clark: You seem to be very close to your parents.

Hiatt: Very close. My parents have been married forty-seven years.

Clark: Boy, that's unusual today in this country.

Hiatt: It's very unusual. They still love each other. My dad still chases my mom around the house and they still say I love you. My mom still bonks him on the head. They get along like children. They get along like they were newlyweds.

Clark: Are you satisfied or content with what you have done in the wrestling business?

Hiatt: No, I was never used to my full potential. Hopefully this WWN thing with Jim Crockett and Paul E. will go good and they'll be able to use me and use my mind and use my creativity and use the Missy character and change it into something that can be used to its full extent.

Clark: Does it upset you that you may not have achieved respect from the public or your peers with the character you portrayed in wrestling?

Hiatt: Yeah, it does. Definitely.

Clark: What image do you think you have with the public?

Hiatt: I just have that reputation, "Oh, that's that blond bimbo on wrestling. That's the wrestling chick." When it comes to wrestling, there's so many people out there that think it's really real, and I hate to insult people's intelligence. I know they come up to Susan Lucci sometimes and they get mad at her, and go, "You're that evil Erica Cain," but they know that soap operas aren't real. But they have to realize that the same thing implies to wrestling. A lot of people out there don't realize that.

Clark: How come your personal life or maybe your sex life seems to be a popular subject of conversation in the business?

Hiatt: I don't know. When I did the Vicki Lawrence show, she didn't ask any of the other wrestlers who they had dated or who they had gone out with. I guess because I just have that look of "they want to know who I'm going out with." Everyone wants to know. It's like, "Who is she dating or who do you think she should be?" I remember when I met Rod, they gave me his hockey stick and so I asked him to sign it. He was like, "I wouldn't have even talked to you because I would have thought either you could do better than me or you already have someone." And I'm thinking, "A lot of people think that, that's why I guess I don't have dates."

Clark: How tough has it been to maintain your physical lool and what kind of things have you chose to put your body through to maintain that physical appearance that you possess?

Hiatt: I was bulimic for two years because I was always told I was fat. "You're fat, you're fat, you're not skinny enough, you're not skinny enough." I went through the stages of being bulimic. I could never be anorexic because I always had to stick something in my mouth. Then I'd feel so ashamed about myself that I ate so I'd go and make myself throw up. There was times that I would throw up five times a day for my appearance. I spent five thousand dollars to have my teeth done. There was nothing wrong with my teeth before, but I thought, "Oh, anything I could do to make myself look better on TV." My left eye was a little saggy, they call it a lazy eye. I went and had that fixed. No one could tell it but me, but I was so critical of myself and how I looked that I did that. I was working out two, two and a half hours a day, and that's just too much. My trainer tells me that I abused my body. I have messed up knees now from doing so much aerobics and pounding and stuff. I'm not even supposed to ski.

Clark: Did you feel pressured from anyone to do these things?

Hiatt: It was just the way they treated me. "You're fat, you're fat."

Clark: If another woman said that you were degrading women with the Missy Hyatt character, how would you react to that statement?

Hiatt: That I'm just doing my job.

Clark: Are there any women in the public eye that you admire or that you've tried to emulate in your life at all?

Hiatt: I tried to make Missy's character a combination of Marilyn Monroe, Erica Cain, Jane Mansfield--the comedy kind of stuff. But I used to respect Jane Fonda. I don't really anymore. Oprah Winfrey maybe, because she has her own production company and she did everything on her own. She's been battling her weight problem and I feel really sorry about that because I saw a show not too long ago and it made me really upset. She was talking about the way the press has really gotten onto her about her weight problem. They don't understand

there is a person inside of you. First you're judged by your physical experience. It's really ashame, I read this somewhere, when a woman gets up and stands to speak in front of a crowd, first they look, and if they like what they see, then they listen. But if a man gets up to speak, if what he's got to say is interesting, then they'll listen.

Clark: Going back in time here, how exactly did you break into the business in 1985?

Hiatt: I was dating John Tatum at the time. Rick Hazard and David Manning saw me at the matches with John and asked me if I wanted to be a manager. I was like, "Oh, okay, sure. What do I have to do?" They said, "Go out to the ringside with him." I was like, "Okay, I can do that. Do I get paid?" They said yeah. I still have my first pay check. I've never cashed it. I doubt I could cash it now, but I still have my $50 first pay check.

Clark: Were you a fan of the business before that?

Hiatt: Not really, kind of, but not really. I was going out with John and I had a girlfriend who was a fan and I knew some people in wrestling. That's how I met him, through my girlfriend.

Clark: Could you give a little background on what you were doing before wrestling entered your life?

Hiatt: I went to high school in Tallahassee and then I moved to Atlanta because I started modeling, and then I met John. I'm only thirty, and I've been doing it for nine years, and I met John when I was like twenty because we were together a while before I got into wrestling.

Clark: What is it about pro wrestling that attracted you to it?

Hiatt: It was totally different. I never watched it growing up and for the first few years I was in it, my parents didn't like it, they thought it was horrible. Until I got on TBS and their friends saw me on TV, people would say, "What is Missy doing?" "Oh, she's living out in Texas," you know, they would not want to tell anyone what I was doing because they thought it was low class. And then when their friends saw me on TBS they finally went, "Oh, yeah, that's her," and then they found out it wasn't so bad. But I never watched wrestling growing up, I had no idea about wrestling growing up.

Clark: What have you learned from the wrestling business?

Hiatt: Don't trust anyone and don't lie.

Clark: What kind of experience was it for you and what did you learn from being married to Eddie Gilbert?

Hiatt: I just learned the politics thing, you know, to keep your mouth shut. It's so hard to explain because I can't really think off the top of my head exactly what I learned. I just learned a lot of the politics that go along with wrestling and that they lie.

Clark: You being new to the business when you started out, was there anyone there who helped you with interviews and other aspects of the wrestling business?

Hiatt: No, never. How I got my first start doing interviews was when I first started working with John. We went to interviews the first day because John really didn't do interviews before him and I started working together, he was just like a low-card heel. He went to talk and they said he sounded funny, so they said, "Missy, thirty seconds, Lubbock, Texas, you and John versus Sunshine and Scott Casey, three-two-one, go." That's how I got my start in interviews. They said to just complain and whine.

Clark: How has your attitude towards the wrestling business changed now that you've been in it for close to nine years?

Hiatt: Well, I really didn't know anything about the business when I first started and I would walk in the dressing room or walk inside and they would go, "Kay Fabe," and I would go, "No, my name's not Kay Fabe, it's Missy." I was totally a fan or just not smart to what goes on in wrestling. I just did what they told me at the beginning. When I met Eddie Gilbert and he was a booker, then I finally realized what was going on and the politics of wrestling. He really taught me a lot. If it wouldn't have been for him, I wouldn't have lasted so long, I wouldn't have learned how to keep my mouth shut. I don't know if that's bad or good, I guess it's good for family. Like my mom said, "Now you're meant to do something that you were always meant to do, that's act. You should have been doing that a long time ago." Maybe if I would have done that, went from modeling to acting, a different career, maybe I'd be making a whole lot more money now and I'd already have an Academy Award, or an Emmy.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

*Diesel beat Razor Ramon to capture the WWF Intercontinental title at the Wrestling Challenge television tapings in Rochester, NY on 4/13 in a match that is scheduled to air on the syndicated show over the 4/30 weekend. Also the tag team titles changed back and forth recently on the European tour as Men On a Mission won them from The Quebecers on 3/29 at Royal Albert Hall in London and The Quebecers then regained the titles two days later in Sheffield, England.

*House shows in the month of May, while Vince McMahon's trial is underway, will be part of the Wrestlemania Revenge Tour which according to sources in the company will feature loaded line-ups, laser lights, smoke for the entrances, and unexpected title changes. Matches on most of the shows include Bret vs Owen Hart for the WWF title, Headshrinkers vs Quebecers for the tag team titles, Razor Ramon vs Diesel for the Intercontinental title, Lex Luger vs Mr. Perfect after a little while, Yokozuna vs Earthquake, IRS vs Tatanka, plus other strong undercard matches. During the month of May in Memphis, Bret Hart will defend the WWF title against Jerry Lawler with McMahon getting involved to set up his match with Lawler.

*Alundra Blayze's woman's title was stolen at the 3/21 Raw tapings in Poughkeepsie, NY, which was blamed on the male workers within the company. Blaze's boyfriend, Greg Valentine, will be returning sometime soon. Nikolai Volkoff will also soon be returning to the ring.

*Vince McMahon dropped his lawsuits against Phil Mushnick and the *New York Post* as well as Geraldo Rivera and Tribune Entertainment last month as he prepares for his case starting 5/2. However, the U.S. Justice Department dropped one of the charges against Titan that could have resulted in the confiscation of Titan Towers. Incidentally, for those who were wondering, the trial with McMahon and Titan Sports cannot be televised by Court TV as it is a case involving the federal government.

*The WWF's video tape company, Coliseum Video, is most known in other circles as a prominent distributer of porno films.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

*WCW's self-proclaimed lead announcer, Jesse Ventura, won his case against Titan Sports on 4/13 as the Federal Jury in Minneapolis awarded him a settlement of $810,000 for back pay on merchandising, such as dolls and distributed video tapes that included his voice.

*Sid "Vicious" Eudy is happy right now spending more time with his family and working on his gym that will be opening soon. He will be filing a multi-million dollar lawsuit shortly against WCW claiming they reneged on their contract offer to him. His lawyers have also been working on getting Arn Anderson's suit against him thrown out of court. Since leaving WCW Vicious has had no talks or contact with the WWF or WCW about employment there. His first match since being fired from WCW was scheduled to take place 4/16 in Atlantic City, NJ for the WWWA working with Tito Santana.

*WCW's recent European tour was described as succsessful as far as

gates and revenues but also as disastrous by WCW officials. Not only did Cactus Jack lose his ear, the next night Vader punctured his ear drum in a match with Sting, referee Randy Anderson broke his leg, Ron Simmons suffered a torn bicep, the ring broke one of the nights, and there was a mix up with the plane tickets for the trip home.

THE INDEPENDENT SCENE

*ECW president Tod Gordon was contacted in March by WCW's Eric Bischoff offering Gordon an appearance on TBS and a segment to expose the ECW product in return for Gordon promoting (on ECW's TV shows) the Slamboree PPV being held in Philadelphia on 5/22. Bischoff also said that WCW would announce Terry Funk (who since has lost the title to Shane Douglas as the ECW champion when he wrestles Tully Blanchard on the PPV. This offer was turned down by Gordon. ECW expects to be running two towns a week starting in June and will soon have a 900-line of their own.

*WWN sent out over 200 demo tapes to television stations around the country attempting to pick up stations. The 15-minute tape only featured the Bob Orton-Jake Roberts match and the interview with Shane Douglas introducing Missy Hyatt as his head cheerleader. The squash matches were largely taped on 2/28 at the Studio 54-sponsored show for the music video that was included in the demo tape. WWN may return in May to the Manhattan Center, where they have a deal to hold a number of events there.

*Mark Bodey's ACW ran a show 3/26 in Johnsonburg, PA in front of about 700 where the ring guy showed up late and the show didn't start until about 10pm and ended after 12am. T.C. Reynolds beat Tommy Justice from Portland, Lord Zoltan beat Johnny Graham, T. Rantula beat Rip Sawyer, Virgil wrestled Max Thrasher to a double-DQ, The Drifters wrestled Bad Crew to a double-DQ as they went all around the building, Glen Osborne beat Lucifuge the Creature of the Knight, and King Kong Bundy & Damian Demento vs Van Hammer & Doink the Clown (Steve Keirn) to a no contest as the ring broke down and they were confined to brawling on the floor for several minutes. Bodey also has shows 4/22 at the high school in Coconamus, PA with Jim Duggan vs Vladimir Koloff (with Ivan in his corner) in a flag match with special guest referee Terry Funk, Doink (Steve Keirn) vs Damian Demento, Chris Benoit vs Ricky Blues, Johnny Gunn vs Max Thrasher. ACW will be at the Conestoga High School in Wayne, PA on 4/23 with Terry Funk vs Doink Steve Keirn, Jim Duggan vs Damian Demento, Chris Benoit vs Ricky Blues, Johnny Gunn vs Max Thrasher, and a five-team survivors match with Ivan & Vladimir Koloff, The Blackhearts, The Drifters, and others. Darryl Van Horne from Smoky Mountain Wrestling will also be working those shows. The workers on the 4/23 show will also work that same night for Dennis Coralluzzo's Woodbury, NJ show that features Funk vs Benoit and a match with Lawler. Bodey also ran a show 4/10 drawing about 600 at the Western Pennsylvania School of the Deaf with Doink on top and has an Allentown fair show on 7/29 featuring The Bushwackers. For info on all ACW shows call promoter Mark Bodey at 215-682-6579.

*Dennis Coralluzzo's NWA Championship Wrestling America has shows 4/29 in Flemington, NJ with Tito Santana vs Bundy, 5/13 in Mahonay City, PA with Doink vs Papa Shango and Dick Murdoch vs Johnny Gunn, 5/14 in Williamstown, NJ with Doink and Murdoch, and 6/4 in Upper Dauphin, PA. Coralluzzo's former partner Larry Sharpe ran a show 4/2 in Clementon, NJ drawing about 700 for Jim Duggan beating Abbudah Singh by countout, Bushwackers beating Super Jacks, and Duane & Wayne Gill capturing the tag team titles from The Spiders. Sharpe returns there 5/7 with himself being the referee for Abdullah the Butcher vs Singh and a match with King Kong Bundy.

*Darren Wise is running a show 4/30 in Red Lion, PA with Doink the Clown vs Jerry Lawler, Bastion Booger vs Johnny Gunn, and also featuring Tony Atlas.

*Dennis Wipprecht's MEWF has a show 4/9 in Essex, MD with The Heavenly Bodies as well as Jerry Lawler vs Brutus Beefcake (who will be substituting for Sid Vicious whose deal was messed up). Vicious is happy right now working on his gym that will be opening soon and will be filing a multi-million dollar lawsuit against WCW claiming they reneged on their contract offer to him. Since leaving WCW, Vicious has had no talks or contact with the WWF or WCW for that matter.

*Jim Kettner's ECWA has an upcoming show in Wilmington, DE on 4/30 at the Salesianum School with Jim Duggan vs Ivan Koloff and an appearance by Captain Lou Albano.

*Killer Kowalski's IWF has shows 4/23 in Needham, MA and 4/30 in Middleboro, MA with Mr. Hughes vs Warlord on top for both shows.

*Tommy Dee's UWS is running a show 5/6 at Our Lady of Miracles in Brooklyn, NY with Doink, Jimmy Snuka, and Jim Duggan.

*John Arezzi says he will be returning to the New York airwaves on radio soon and is running some spot shows in May or June in such towns as Farmingdale, with Sabu as one of the lead performers.

*Mario Savoldi's IWCCW is running a television taping on 5/20 in Yardville, NJ (near Trenton) with Jim Duggan vs Rick Martel and Tito Santana vs Greg Valentine. Their show on 4/10 in Cherry Hill, NJ drew less than 200 with Santana beating Valentine in the main event.

*John Bush's Great Lakes Wrestling Association has nine dates in June using Jake Roberts, Sam Houston, Rockin Robin (a family affair), King Kong Bundy, Greg Valentine, Jim Neidhart, and maybe Larry Zbyszko.

*Keith Wong is starting up Carribean Wrestling Federation is starting to run regular shows in the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Trinidad, and the Turk Islands.

FLYER FAN FARE

*Clinton Freeman of 196 East 75th Street, New York, NY 10021 has a catalog available for $2 listing magazines and his Japanese tapes featuring The Great Muta, Vader, and Hulk Hogan. . . Bertrand Hebert of 647 Ellice, Beauharnois, Quebec, Canada J6N 1X8 has a newsletter out for $1.50 that focuses on the Montreal scene. You'll receive a free issue if you subscribe now.

EDITOR'S NOTES

*This is the first issue published (since #37) in about two months, and for the inexcusable delay, I sincerely apologize. It should be noted that the next "issue" which will be published next month will be a special interview book with all-new superstar interviews, similar in size to the 66-page 1993 Wrestling Flyer Yearbook. The cost of the book is $11 ($13 for overseas and Canadian orders) and subscribers in the United States will have seven issues deducted (overseas: 5 issues, Canada: 8 issues) from their account unless you inform me otherwise.

WRESTLING FLYER

1993 YEARBOOK $12 ($15 outside of US) (Ted DiBiase and Sid Vicious interviews, comments from 30 wrestlers in the business on the industry, the 1993 Readers Poll, and much more in the 66 pages)

INTERVIEW COLLECTION #1 $10 ($12 outside of US) (Jerry Lawler, Paul Roma, Iron Sheik, Jimmy Snuka, Bruno Sammartino, Terry Taylor, Road Warriors Hawk and Animal, Marty Janetty, Buddy Landel, Davey Boy Smith, Paul Ellering, Jake Roberts)

INTERVIEW COLLECTION #2 $10 ($12 outside of US) (Steve Keirn, Sherri Martel, Madusa, Paul E. Dangerously, Shane Douglas, Earthquake, Paul Diamond, Bill Watts, Mark Madden, Terry Gordy, Honky Tonk Man, Kerry Von Erich, Tully Blanchard, Eddie Gilbert)

WRESTLING FLYER NEWSLETTER is a monthly publication available by subscription at $1.50 ($2.50 for orders outside of North America) per issue, $6 for 4 issues, and $12 for 8 issues. Send all subscription and product orders, letters, news, articles, and all other inquiries to WRESTLING FLYER NEWSLETTER, PO BOX 283, WALLINGFORD, PA 19086. Please make all payments (cash, checks, money orders) payable to the editor, John Clark. THANK YOU.

All interviews conducted by John Clark are transcribed verbatim and the opinions of the subject being interviewed do not necessarily represent the opinions of myself or this newsletter.

In an effort to improve the quality of this newsletter, we would appreciate it if you could please phone in a report of any live shows you attend after the event is held to our phoneline 215-566-3852 at any and all hours of the day. Fax messages can be sent to the same number with notification before doing so. THANK YOU.

TENTATIVE

1994 APRIL/MAY/JUNE WWF-WCW EVENT SCHEDULE

TENTATIVE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
WWF april 11 UTICA NY*	WWF 12 SYRACUSE NY*	WWF 13 ROCHESTER NY*	14	15	16	WCW 17 CHICAGO IL#
18	19	20	21	22	WWF 23 RICHFIELD OH SARNIA ON	WWF 24 CINCINNATI OH FLINT MI
WCW 25 MACON GA* WWF INDIANAPOLIS IN CADILLAC MI	26 WWF BURLINGTON VT*	27 WWF ALBANY NY*	28 WWF SPRINGFIELD MA*	29 WWF NEW HAVEN CT	30 WWF WILTON CT BOSTON MA	may 1 WWF FALLS RIVER MA WORCESTER MA
2	3 WCW CENTER STAGE*	4	5 WCW SARASOTA FL WWF LAWRENCEBURG TN	6 WCW FORT PIERCE FL WWF McMINNVILLE TN	WCW 7 NASSAU BAHAMAS WWF OWENSBORO KY YOKOHAMA JAPAN	8 WWF SPRINGFIELD TN NAGOYA JAPAN
9 WCW FORT LAUDERDALE FL WWF OSAKA JAPAN	10	11 WWF SAPPORO JAPAN	WCW 12 ORLANDO FL DISBEY* WWF GUAM DALTON GA	WCW 13 ORLANDO FL DISNEY* WWF HONOLULU HI MOBILE AL	WCW 14 ORLANDO FL DISNEY* WWF ANAHEIM CA BILOXI MS	WCW 15 ORLANDO FL DISNEY* WWF SAN JOSE CA PENSACOLA FL
16 WCW ORLANDO FL DISNEY*	17 WCW ORLANDO FL DISNEY*	18	WCW 19 SALISBURY MD WWF FORT MYERS FL UNIONDALE NY	WCW 20 UPPER MARLBORO MD WWF PALMETTO FL MADISON SQ GARDEN	21 WWF SUNRISE FL AUBURN HILLS MI	WCW 22 PHILADELPHIA PA# WWF COLUMBUS GA ROSEMONT IL
23 WWF WARREN OH*	WCW 24 CENTER STAGE* WWF CANTON OH*	WCW 25 CENTER STAGE* WWF ERIE PA*	26 WCW COLUMBIA SC	WCW 27 AUGUSTA GA WWF BASEL SWITZERLAND	WCW 28 CHARLOTTE NC WWF ZURICH SWITZERLAND	29 WWF NUREMBURG GERMANY
30 WWF PORTLAND ME STUTTGART GERMANY	WCW 31 DALTON GA WWF ST JOHN'S NF MENNINGEN GERMANY	june 1 WWF KASSEL GERMANY	2 WWF BERLIN GERMANY	3	4	5
WWF 6 BANGOR ME	7	8	9	WWF 10 PITTSBURGH PA	WWF 11 NIAGRA FALLS NY	WWF 12 HARTFORD CT
WWF 13 LIBERTY NY*	WWF 14 POUGHKEEPSIE NY*	WWF 15 WHITE PLAINS NY*	WWF 16 SCRANTON PA	WWF 17 HERSHEY PA	WWF 18 PHILADELPHIA PA	WWF 19 BALTIMORE MD#
20	21	22	WWF 23 BELLEVILLE ON SUISON CITY CA	WWF 24 HULL PQ STOCKTON CA	WWF 25 MONTREAL PQ SACRAMENTO CA	WWF 26 TORONTO ON HIGH SCHOOL IN CA

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